

Introduction to the study of Ephesians

Dear Women of the Word,

Welcome! We are about to set out on a study of a small book that is filled to the brim with glorious truths about the blessings we have in Jesus and how this affects our everyday lives. My prayer is that the Spirit will open our eyes to the beauty of the realities seen in Ephesians and we will be compelled to worship God and to walk more closely with our Savior.

There are a few things you need to know as you begin this study:

All Scripture quoted is ESV unless otherwise noted. The questions are also based on the ESV unless noted. Your notebook includes ESV and NLT.

The study is designed to help you spend a little time each day meeting with God in his word. At the beginning of each day there is space to write out the verse or verses we will be looking at that day. In writing a verse you may grasp a different nuance than you did in reading it. This is just another avenue or tool to help you soak in and understand what you are reading. If this is overwhelming for you, if you are short on time or if it is physically taxing, that's ok, skip it. We are all at different places on our spiritual walk, so take part in what nurtures your growth. Some of us need to challenge ourselves and some of us need to give ourselves grace.

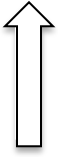
The **Digging Deeper** questions take you to a different part of the Bible and will give added understanding to the subject at hand. If you are running short on time these are the questions you can skip.

The **Heart** questions require some inner examination and reflection. They help you apply God's word to your own life.

The **Scholar's Notes** and **Picture and Ponder** help to clarify and deepen understanding and application.

For Discussion are questions that are conducive to brainstorming, though you should give them some thought before group time. The answers aren't found directly in the passage, but relate to it.

Taking Root at the end of each lesson will prompt you to think about how the truths in the passage relate to your relationship with God and others. This section will help us stay focused on how to live out the mission statement of our church.



Each year my fervent prayer for you is that this study will not only be an intellectual exercise, but that it will be devotional—that it will engage your heart as well as your mind. The whole point of Bible study is to know God and love him! Growing in our relationship with God involves two-way conversation. As God speaks to us through his word he invites us to respond to him through prayer. So, interspersed throughout the study are boxes with arrows pointing up, prompting us to respond to God in praise, thanksgiving, confession and requests. Make these prayers your own or use them as a reminder to respond to what God is speaking to you.

One last bit of information that will hopefully make life a little easier. If you are absent on a day we hand out lessons, you can now go to my website and print off the lesson you need at Inhimallthings.org

Lastly, remember that the aim of our study is not to get every answer perfect, but to think, learn, discuss and search God's word together, all in order to know and love God better. Our great God is deep and complex and infinitely wise and good, so we should expect that studying his word and understanding his ways is hard; it takes effort, time and perseverance, but he is so incredibly worth it!

To the praise of his glorious grace,

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